

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STUTTG 01171 091857Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 IO-13 /079 W

----- 045359

R 091450Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USBERLIN

SECSTATE WASHDC 3087

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STUTTGART 1171

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: LOCAL CDU MODERATELY BOUYANT

1. SUMMARY: OUR OWN ASSESSMENT AND VARIETY OF WELL-PLACED CONTACTS CONFIRM VIEW AS SEEN FROM BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG THAT OUTCOME OCTOBER 3 VOTING STILL TOO CLOSE TO CALL. ALLENSBACH INSTITUTE STUDY INDICATES VOTER TURNOUT AND UNDERSTANDING OF IMPORTANCE OF "SECOND VOTE" FOR PARTY LIST WILL BE IMPORTANT FACTORS, WITH LATTER BEING DECISIVE FOR FDP. GERMAN POLITICS MUCH LESS POLARIZED THAN IN PAST WHICH EVEN AT THIS STAGE OF CAMPAIGN RESULTS IN CONSIDERABLE AND MUCH MORE FACILE SWITCHING OF PARTY ALLEGIANCES. ALTHOUGH ALLENSBACH PREDICTS 90 PERCENT TURNOUT FOR ELECTION IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, CAMPAIGN THUS FAR IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG HAS FAILED TO SPARK MUCH PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF VOTER ENTHUSIASM, NOR CAN OBSERVERS DETECT ANY POPULAR SENTIMENT THAT MAJOR PARTIES ARE REALLY OFFERING MUCH IN THE WAY OF CLEAR AND SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STUTTG 01171 091857Z

TO SOLUTION OF PUBLIC PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, LOCAL CDUERS

RIDING WAVE OF OPTIMISM ABOUT LIKELY STRENGTH OF CDU/CSU VOTE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND BAVARIA AND BELIEVE IT MAY BE ONE OF MAJOR KEYS TO POSSIBLE FEDERAL VICTORY FOR UNION PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGEN OFFICERS VISITED ON SEPTEMBER 8 HIGHLY RESPECTED ALLENSBACH RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND WERE TOLD THAT POLLING RESULTS SO FAR ARE SO CLOSE THAT THEY DO NOT EVEN PERMIT ALLOWANCE FOR NORMAL 1-2 PERCENT ERROR FACTOR. DESPITE EVIDENT LACK OF CAMPAIGN ENTHUSIASM, OUR ALLENSBACH SOURCE INDICATED THAT IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG VOTER TURNOUT ON OCTOBER 3, AS IN 1972, WOULD BE AROUND 90 PERCENT. MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR, HOWEVER, WAS RESULT OF RECENT STUDY SHOWING THAT VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE (13 PERCENT) OF GERMAN POPULATION REALLY UNDERSTOOD CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF 2ND VOTE (PARTY LIST) IN DETERMINING ACTUAL STRENGTH OF PARTY REPRESENTATION IN BONN. IN CONTRAST, 29 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS THOUGHT THE FIRST VOTE (FOR DIRECT CANDIDATE) THE MOST IMPORTANT WHEREAS 34 PERCENT THOUGHT BOTH VOTES WERE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE. OUR ALLENSBACH CONTACT INDICATED THE EVIDENCE SHOWED THAT PERCENTAGE-WISE MORE FDP VOTERS APPRECIATE DECISIVE IMPORTANCE OF 2ND VOTE. CONSEQUENTLY HE THOUGHT FDP NATIONALLY WOULD BE IN THE 7-8 PERCENT RANGE ON FIRST VOTES BUT WOULD GO AS HIGH AS 10-11 PERCENT AS A RESULT OF THE ALL IMPORTANT SECOND VOTE. HE ALSO, HOWEVER, CONFIRMED IMPRESSION GIVEN BY KEY FDP CONTACT THAT FDP ALREADY HAS WRITTEN OFF MANY AREAS IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG.

3. MAJOR FACTOR IN MAKING THIS ELECTION PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO CALL IS, ACCORDING TO ALLENSBACH, THAT GERMAN POLITICS LESS POLARIZED THAN IN PAST. ISSUES NOW MORE COMPLEX AND VOTERS BEING OFFERED MUCH LESS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN. RESULT HAS BEEN THAT VOTERS WHO KNOW WHAT PARTY THEY WILL VOTE FOR HAS DROPPED FROM OVER 70 PERCENT TO AROUND 60 PERCENT AND EVEN AMONG THOSE VOTERS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE AND CONSTANT SWITCHING OF PARTY ALLEGIANCES EVEN AT THIS LATE STAGE OF THE CAMPAIGN.

4. HIGHLY PLACED SOURCE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG STAATSMINISTERIUM INFORMED US THAT PRIVATE STUDIES OF LIKELY OUTCOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STUTTG 01171 091857Z

IN BOTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND BAVARIA INDICATE THAT CDU IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND CSU IN BAVARIA WILL HOLD ON TO MUCH OF GAINS MADE IN MOST RECENT LANDTAG ELECTIONS IN EACH LAND (APRIL 1976 IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, AND OCTOBER 1974 IN BAVARIA). THIS MEANS THAT CDU MAY WIN AS MUCH AS 54 PERCENT IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. THINKING SEEMS TO BE THAT IF CSU CAN POLL, AS PRIVATE STUDY ALLEGEDLY INDICATES, IN THE 58-60 PERCENT RANGE, BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND BAVARIAN STRENGTH IN SOUTH WILL

HELP TO OFFSET ANY SMALL LOSSES OR STATEMENTS IN OTHER
LAENDER. THIS SCENARIO HAS CONVINCED MANY THAT THE CDU/CSU
STILL HAS A SLIM BUT GENUINE CHANCE FOR A NATIONAL VICTORY,
WITH WOUTH PLAYING KEY ROLE IN THE PARTY'S SUCCESS.

5. CDU MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER HAS HEAVY SCHEDULE IN
OTHER LAENDER WHEREAS MAJOR NATIONAL FIGURES FROM ALL PAR-
TIES NOT DEVOTING GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO BADEN-WUERTTEM-
BERG. WHILE THIS MAY MEAN THAT OUTCOME IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG
BEING TAKEN FOR GRANTED, IT CERTAINLY WILL SERVE TO INCREASE
FILBINGER'S NATIONAL POLITICAL STATURE, PERHAPS EVEN ENOUGH,
HE BELIEVES, TO BECOME LEADING CDU CANDIDATE FOR BUNDES-
PRESIDENT IN 1979.

6. THE NUANCES OF THE EXCHANGE OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS ARE
INTERESTING, WITH TWO ELEMENTS VERY CLEAR: 1) EMPHASIS ON
NORTH-RHINE-WESTPHALIA; AND 2) NO UPSTAGING OF LANDESVATER
FILBINGER IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. FILBINGER'S SCHEDULE (50
SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS) INCLUDES TWO APPEARANCES IN DORTMUND,
AND SEVERAL OTHERS IN NORTH-RHINE-WESTPHALIA. LOCALLY FILBIN-
GER TOOK KOHL TO SPEAK, NOT IN STUTTGART, BUT NEARBY WAIB-
LINGEN, WHERE THERE WOULD BE NO INVIDIOUS COMPARISON WITH
THE STUTTGART TURNOUT FOR FILBINGER IN THE APRIL LANDTAG
ELECTION. STRAUSS IS ASSIGNED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN SMALL
TOWNS IN THE EAST OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG WHERE THE NPD IS
STRONG. IN RETURN, FILBINGER GETS DINKELSBUEHL AND NOERDLIN-
GEN ON THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG BORDER IN BAVARIA.

7. COMMENT: WHETHER THE CURRENT OPTIMISM IN CDU CIRCLES,
INCLUDING A HOPED-FOR IMPACT OF STRONG CDU VOTE IN SOUTH,
IS ACTUALLY JUSTIFIED MIGHT BE CHECKED OUT IN FURTHER PUBLIC
POLLS BEFORE ELECTION, WHICH WE SHALL WATCH FOR. IN ANY
EVENT, THE SCENARIO FITS MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER'S VIEW
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STUTTG 01171 091857Z

OF THE FUTURE. IF THE CDU/CSU WINS (OR LOSES CLOSELY) THE
FEDERAL ELECTION, WITH A SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN IN THE SOUTH AND
USING A VARIANT OF FILBINGER'S THEME ON "FREEDOM OR SOCIAL-
ISM", THE MINISTER PRESIDENT WOULD SEE HIS CHANCES OF RE-
PLACING SCHEEL IN 1979 CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED. JENKINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STUTTGO1171
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760341-0793
From: STUTTGART
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760975/aaaacmvz.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL CDU MODERATELY BOUYANT
TAGS: PINT, GE, CDU
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006